

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01676 112006Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 /053 W

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O R 111952Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1273

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1676

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (STABLER, WELLS), SP, PO

SUBJECT: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA

1. ACCOMPANIED BY DCM I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA THIS AFTERNOON TO PRESENT COPIES OF MY CREDENTIALS AND LETTER OF RECALL OF MY PREDECESSOR.

2. CORTINA RECEIVED ME VERY CORDIALLY, REFERRING TO OUR PREVIOUS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, AND SAID HE WOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE WHEN I NEEDED TO SEE HIM. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE MIGHT EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON A MORE OR LESS REGUALR BASIS. I REPLIED IN KIND.

3. CORTINA ASKED ME WHAT LATE INFORMATION I MIGHT HAVE ON PORTUGUESE SITUATION. I GAVE HIM A RUN-DOWN BASED ON EARLIER REPORTS FROM LISBON. CORTINA SAID IT WAS CLEAR "ATTEMPTED COUP BY RIGHT AND MODERATE FORCES" HAD FAILED AND HE PREDICTED VIOLENT REACTIONS FROM THE LEFT. HE TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT FOUR PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS HAD LANDED AT TALAVERA DE LA REINA, SPANISH TOWN NEAR FRONTIER, WITH UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE MILITARY WHO HAD FLED ON FAILURE OF COUP ATTEMPT. THESE HELICOPTERS WOULD PRESENT SPANISH GOVT WITH DIFFICULT PROBLEM SINCE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 01676 112006Z

GOP WOULD ASK FOR RETURN OF AIRCRAFT AND MEN.

GOS WANTED TO REMAIN UNINVOLVED IN PORTUGAL.

4. IN DISCUSSING GENERAL MEDITERRANEAN PICTURE
CORTINA SAID AREA HAD BECOME A VERY ACTIVE ONE WITH
DANGEROUS POSSIBILITIES. I SAID THIS WAS ADDED
REASON WHY SIXTH FLEET SHOULD REMAIN IN AREA AND HAVE
FULL FACILITIES TO ACCOMPLISH ITS TASKS. DETENTE
DID NOT MEAN WEST COULD LOWER ITS GUARD IN ANY WAY.
CORTINA SAID HE FULLY AGREED, SINCE IT WAS EVIDENT
THAT WITHOUT US PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN THERE WOULD
BE NO ADEQUATE COUNTERBALANCE TO SOVIET MEDIUM RANGE
CAPABILITIES TARGETTED ON WESTERN EUROPE.

5. CORTINA MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO BASE
NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON IN WASHINGTON.
STABLER

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NNN

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